




MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DATE: July 24, 2006

TO: George Burgess
County Manager

FROM: 
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: Miami-Dade Housing Agency Funding

As you know, recent Miami Herald articles profile Miami-Dade Housing Agency's (MDHA's) mismanagement of public funds and certain recipients who continue to be allocated funding from the County, despite the lack of proper documentation that funds were or are being used for their intended purposes. In a separate memorandum, I have called for a full audit and criminal investigation into this matter. Those persons responsible for overseeing these programs must be held accountable for their actions and lack thereof.

I will not permit any additional taxpayer dollars to be directed towards any entity, and/or developer or principals associated with these failed affordable housing agreements, whether the allocation is within the Manager's Proposed Budget or administered through any County department. A list of every one of the parties and individuals in question should immediately be compiled and available for reference. Any outstanding issues with pending projects must be resolved before further funding is even contemplated. It is irresponsible to dedicate funding where there is not a proven track record of success and before an in-depth review of the internal financial controls that appear to have been circumvented in MDHA occurs. I expect that every effort is undertaken to recoup funds and property that have otherwise been unavailable so that these valuable resources can be diverted to better uses.

We must maximize and leverage the state and federal funding that we have to ensure that these entitlements are not jeopardized at the expense of our most vulnerable residents. Our housing programs play an integral role in improving the quality of life in Miami-Dade County, and we cannot allow abuse to undermine its purposes, as well as the public trust in government.

c: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners
George Burgess, County Manager
Murray Greenberg, County Attorney
Kay Sullivan, Director, Clerk of the Board
Cynthia Curry, Senior Advisor to the County Manager